

when we passed the Women's Health Protection Act—and not a moment too soon as *Roe v. Wade* hangs in the balance and States like Ohio race to pass new laws to ban abortion. This is a basic right, a matter of settled law. But this week the Senate blocked the vote—blocked it—and we didn't even get a vote.

It is time to get rid of the filibuster and make sure that the bills we send here from the House actually get passed in the United States Senate.

CARING FOR OUR VETERANS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3967, the Honoring our PACT Act, which will ensure comprehensive benefits and care for our troops who suffer from toxic exposure, especially from burn pits. I want to thank Chairman TAKANO for his leadership on this bill. It is something we should all support. It supports our veterans.

As the daughter of a veteran, the sister of a veteran, and the wife of a veteran, caring for our veterans is extremely important to me, as it should be to every American. I could not help but be struck by the similarities between this bill and the 9/11 health and compensation bill which served and supported our heroes and heroines of 9/11 who likewise were exposed to burning toxins that later gave them cancers and severe illness.

This bill could help over 3 million veterans who are currently suffering from exposure to toxic burn pits.

Whether a veteran has served in Afghanistan, Iraq, or elsewhere, if they were exposed to these toxic hazards, they are entitled to care. They were there for us; we should be there for them. We should all support this important bill.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2748

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I seek recognition to remove myself as cosponsor of H.R. 2748.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH). The gentleman's request is approved.

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 950, I call up the bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 950, an amend-

ment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-33, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 117-253, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3967

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021” or the “Honoring our PACT Act of 2021”.

(b) *MATTERS RELATING TO AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.*—

(1) *REFERENCES.*—Except as otherwise expressly provided, when in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

(2) *AMENDMENTS TO TABLES OF CONTENTS.*—Except as otherwise expressly provided, when an amendment made by this Act to title 38, United States Code, adds a section or larger organizational unit to that title or amends the designation or heading of a section or larger organizational unit in that title, that amendment also shall have the effect of amending any table of sections in that title to alter the table to conform to the changes made by the amendment.

(c) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references to title 38, United States Code; table of contents.

TITLE I—EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

Subtitle A—Toxic-exposed Veterans

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Definitions relating to toxic-exposed veterans.

Sec. 103. Expansion of health care for specific categories of toxic-exposed veterans and veterans supporting certain overseas contingency operations.

Sec. 104. Assessments of implementation and operation.

Subtitle B—Certain Veterans of Combat Service

Sec. 111. Expansion of period of eligibility for health care for certain veterans of combat service.

TITLE II—TOXIC EXPOSURE PRESUMPTION PROCESS

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Improvements to ability of Department of Veterans Affairs to establish presumptions of service connection based on toxic exposure.

Sec. 203. Reevaluation of claims for compensation involving presumptions of service connection.

TITLE III—IMPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE CONNECTION PROCESS FOR TOXIC-EXPOSED VETERANS

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Presumptions of toxic exposure.

Sec. 303. Medical nexus examinations for toxic exposure risk activities.

TITLE IV—PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE CONNECTION

Sec. 401. Treatment of veterans who participated in cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation-exposed veterans for purposes of presumption of service connection of certain disabilities by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 402. Treatment of veterans who participated in nuclear response near Palomares, Spain, or Thule, Greenland, as radiation-exposed veterans for purposes of presumption of service connection of certain disabilities by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 403. Presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with exposures to certain herbicide agents for veterans who served in certain locations.

Sec. 404. Addition of additional diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in certain locations.

Sec. 405. Improving compensation for disabilities occurring in Persian Gulf War veterans.

Sec. 406. Presumption of service connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to burn pits and other toxins.

TITLE V—RESEARCH MATTERS

Sec. 501. Coordination by Department of Veterans Affairs of toxic exposure research.

Sec. 502. Data collection, analysis, and report on treatment of veterans for illnesses related to toxic exposure.

Sec. 503. Studies related to veterans who served in Southwest Asia and certain other locations.

Sec. 504. Study on health trends of post 9/11 veterans.

Sec. 505. Study on cancer rates among veterans.

Sec. 506. Study on feasibility and advisability of furnishing hospital care and medical services to dependents of veterans who participated in toxic exposure risk activities.

TITLE VI—IMPROVEMENT OF RESOURCES AND TRAINING REGARDING TOXIC-EXPOSED VETERANS

Sec. 601. Short title; definitions.

Sec. 602. Publication of list of resources of Department of Veterans Affairs for toxic-exposed veterans and outreach program for such veterans and caregivers and survivors of such veterans.

Sec. 603. Incorporation of toxic exposure questionnaire during primary care appointments.

Sec. 604. Training for personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to toxic-exposed veterans.

TITLE VII—REGISTRIES, RECORDS, AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 701. Registry of individuals exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on military installations.

Sec. 702. Fort McClellan Health Registry.

Sec. 703. Independent study on Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record.

Sec. 704. Biannual report on Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record.

Sec. 705. Correction of exposure records by members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

Sec. 706. Federal cause of action relating to water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Sec. 7____. Veterans toxic exposures fund.

TITLE I—EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

Subtitle A—Toxic-exposed Veterans

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Conceding Our Veterans’ Exposures Now And Necessitating Training Act” or the “COVENANT Act”.